

May 08 2020

Noticias y Notas

News and notes from the Second Judicial District Court

A word from the chief

When I was a kid....

The summer months were my favorite time of the year. The days were longer, there was no school, which, of course, meant no homework. There were no teachers telling me to be quiet and get back to work. I remember that it was always hot and dry which meant I could wear my favorite clothing all summer long---swimming trunks. Seemed like my brothers and I were out the front door and on our bikes the moment the sun came up and returned home only after the sun went down. I don't think we ever watched television (except the live moonwalk in July of '69). It seemed like we didn't have a care in the world. We didn't. All the pressure for our survival was laid squarely on the shoulders of my mother, who, as a single parent, had the daunting task of providing for 4 very active and rambunctious kids who only appreciated what she was able to do after having kids of our own. As I got older I learned how fearful and concerned she was over issues of racial, social and economic inequality that plagued our country at the time and how that was directly affecting us as an African American family living in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Why the story of my childhood? Because it makes think of all the parents of our court who are trying to help their kids be kids right now, while also trying to protect them from the burden we, as parents, shoulder surrounding this healthcare emergency. This is a shout out to you parents. Someone needs to tell you that you are doing a great job. That no matter how hard it seems now, your kids will remember one thing clearly when it's all said and done----that you were there for them when they needed a calm reassurance from you that things will be alright. Here's to my mother and to you parents.

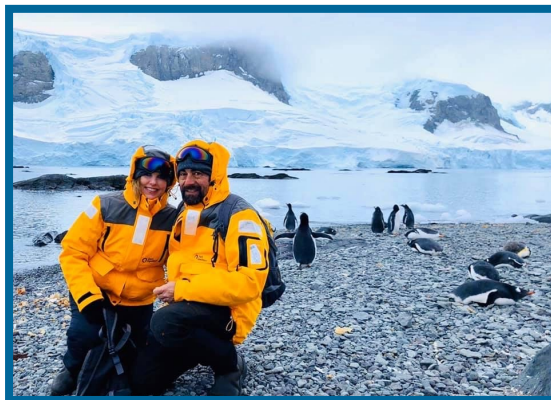
Judge Stan Whitaker

Virus interrupts SJDC employee's Antarctic adventure

Just before the coronavirus was declared a global pandemic, SJDC Human Resources Assistant II Janet Van-Why and her husband Ray took off on an once-in-a-lifetime adventure to the remote continent of Antarctica.

It was everything they expected—and more. Especially the trip home, which involved two stints in quarantine, multiple canceled flights, a lock-down-defying drive to the airport and last-minute passage on a humanitarian flight from South America to the United States.

To read the full story of the Van-Whys' Antarctic excursion, [click here](#).



Janet and Ray Van-Why, with penguins, in Antarctica



Shout outs



This is the space where we sound the horn for outstanding performances.

This week's shout out to goes to On-Record Appeals Program Manager **Monica Lucero**, who went above and beyond in seeking and compiling links to online training materials for our teleworking staff. Online access to these materials is coming soon.

Thanks, Monica.

Have news to share?

Send it to:

albdshx@nmcourt.gov

It can be a story, a photo or a special announcement. We currently would like to hear from anyone who has graduating high school or college seniors.

Things to do while social-distancing



Shop local farmers markets

Local farmers market are now offering “Farm-to-Car” service. You can pre-order online and have your fresh fruits and vegetables handed to you when you drive up to the market. Now, there is no excuse not to eat right during this crisis. For info on farm-to-car service at the Rail Yards Market, [click here](#). For farm-to-car options at the Downtown Grower’s Market, [click here](#).

Learn the history of the Muppets

The Albuquerque Museum currently is closed. However, information about one of its most popular exhibits, *The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited*, is online. Kids of all ages can view a video about this exhibit, as well as one about Jim Henson’s career, including his time in the advertising business, and of course, how and why he created the Muppets. You also can download a Kermit and Miss Piggy coloring page. See it all [here](#).



Pets at Work

Meet Liam and Tomas, the new office assistants to Monica Rodriguez, deputy court executive officer for Children’s Court. We know it looks like they are sleeping on the job, but Monica assures us that their mere presence is essential to the efficient operation of her home office.

We welcome photos of your home office at albdsxh@nmcourts.gov.

